

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated March 5, 2004. As this paper is filed on August 5, 2004 with a two-month extension of time, the paper is timely filed.

I. Status of Amendments

Claims 1-89 were pending prior to this response. By this Amendment, applicants cancel claims 1-34 and 46-89 without prejudice to refile, amend claims 35, 36, 37, 44 and 45, and add claims 90-100. Thus, claims 35-45 and 90-100 are presently pending.

Because applicants have previously paid for 7 independent claims and 89 total claims, no fee is required by this amendment.

II. Response to the March 5 Office Action

Claims 1-9, 16, 17, 24, 73-76, and 84-89 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Pease et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,855,515), and claims 34-36, 44-53, 56-58, and 64-72 under 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Olsen (U.S. Patent No. 6,217,448). Claims 10, 11 and 77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as allegedly unpatentable over Pease et al. in view of Walker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,364,765), claims 8, 18-20, 22, 23, and 78-83 over Pease et al. in view of Olsen, claim 21 over Pease et al. in view of Cannon (U.S. Publ. No. 2002/0177483), claims 25-33, 66 and 70 over Olsen in view of Walker et al., and claims 54, 55, and 59-63 over Olsen in view of Hedrick et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,368,216). These rejections are now moot based on the cancellations of claims 1-11, 16-34, and 46-89.

Applicants have amended claim 37 to include the limitations of independent claim 34, and have amended claims 35, 36, 44, and 45 to depend from claim 37. In keeping with the comments at the bottom of page 16 and the top of page 17 of the March 5 Office Action, claim 37 and claims 35, 36, and 38-45 that depend therefrom should be now allowable.

Applicants have also added claims 90-100. Claim 90 recites a system including a plurality of gaming devices and a controller. The controller of claim 90 is programmed to detect a player at one of said plurality of gaming devices, said player using said one of said

plurality of gaming devices, to detect a current bonus round, to detect current entries generated by said player using said one of said plurality of gaming devices during said current bonus round, to detect past entries registered to said player, and to detect a triggering event indicating a start of a current bonus game of a plurality of bonus games. The controller is also programmed to query if said player is eligible to participate in said current bonus game, and, if said player is eligible to participate in said current bonus game, to include said current entries in a current entry pool and distribute said past entries among said current entry pool, a next entry pool and a predefined number of subsequent entry pools according to a first par sheet, or, if said player fails to be eligible to participate in said current bonus game, to query if said player has relinquished control of said gaming device and, if no, to designate said current entries as said past entries. The controller is further programmed to detect completion of said current bonus game, and to clear said current entry pool. Because of the remarks made in regard to claim 37, applicants submit that claim 90 and claims 91-100 that depend therefrom are allowable.

III. Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submit herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. The Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement includes references located by the European Patent Office acting as the International Searching Authority concerning the counterpart PCT application. For the examiner's convenience, applicants have submitted a copy of the International Search Report, both with the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and as an attachment to this amendment.

Serial No. 09/998,927
Reply dated August 5, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated March 5, 2004

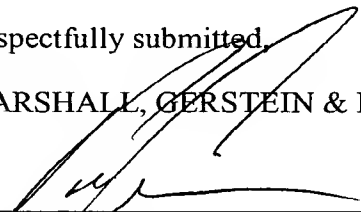
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above application is in condition for allowance, and reconsideration is respectfully requested. If there is any matter that the Examiner would like to discuss, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 5, 2004

By:



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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 29757/AG51-P	FOR FURTHER ACTION <small>see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, Item 5 below.</small>	
International application No. PCT/US 02/38185	International filing date (day/month/year) 27/11/2002	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 29/11/2001
Applicant IGT		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 6 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☒ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

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☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 02/38185

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 1-48
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 1-48

The claims relate to subject matter for which no search is required according to Rule 39 PCT. Given that the claims are formulated in terms of such subject matter or merely specify commonplace features relating to its technological implementation, the search examiner could not establish any technical problem which might potentially have required an inventive step to overcome. Hence it was not possible to carry out a meaningful search into the state of the art (Art. 17(2)(a)(i) and (ii) PCT; see PCT International Search Guidelines, Chapter VIII, items 1 to 3).

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 02/38185

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G07F17/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G07F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 224 484 B1 (YAMAGUCHI TAKASHI ET AL) 1 May 2001 (2001-05-01) abstract figures 1,8 column 2, lines 13-41 column 3, lines 3-10 column 8, lines 11-56 column 9, lines 42-53 column 10, lines 8-67 column 11, line 13 - column 12, line 10	49-60, 64-89
X	US 2001/036855 A1 (MEEKINS JOHN P ET AL) 1 November 2001 (2001-11-01) abstract figure 3 paragraphs '0013! - '0027!, '0048!, '0051! - '0055!, '0074!, '0083!, '0088!, '0092!, '0098! - '0101! ----- -/--	49-60, 64-89

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Z document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 July 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

26/07/2004

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 02/38185

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 01/80057 A (IGT RENO NEV) 25 October 2001 (2001-10-25) page 1, lines 12-15 page 3, line 7 - page 4, line 6	49-66
A	US 4 710 873 A (BRESLOW JEFFREY D ET AL) 1 December 1987 (1987-12-01) abstract figures 1-3	61-63

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 02/38185

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6224484	B1	01-05-2001	JP 2928493 B2 JP 10328354 A	03-08-1999 15-12-1998
US 2001036855	A1	01-11-2001	US 6685563 B1	03-02-2004
WO 0180057	A	25-10-2001	AU 5703701 A EP 1290571 A1 WO 0180057 A1 US 2003083132 A1 ZA 200209305 A	30-10-2001 12-03-2003 25-10-2001 01-05-2003 08-10-2003
US 4710873	A	01-12-1987	NONE	